

Application No. 10/806901
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Amendment
Attorney Docket No. F02.2B-11307-US01

Amendments To The Drawings:

None.

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This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated May 8, 2006. An extension of time is required and requested in the event that a separate paper requesting same is not attached.

§112 Objection to Claims 9 and 10

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the error the Examiner noted in claims 9 and 10. Claim 9 has been amended to refer to side forms rather than side walls.

Claims 1 and 2 - §102 Wilson 5,393,033

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as being anticipated by Wilson, U.S. Patent 5,393,033 (Wilson '033). Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the pivotal linkage of the linkage members causes the side forms to move up and down keeping the side forms always in a vertical position which linkage requires movement of the side forms back and forth. The application clearly shows that the pivotal linkage keeps the side forms constantly against the casting bed and has the side form raising and lowering by virtue of sliding back and forth along the linkage which causes the entire side form to not only move vertically, but end to end on the casting bed.

The claims as amended are very different from the Wilson '033 teachings and any suggestions therefrom, which are limited to a side form which is driven up and down by forcing a sloped track 102 to push them up or down. Note that the Wilson '033 device requires a pivot only to pull the side forms away from the bed, which does not occur in the invention as claimed.

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Claims 1, 6-7, 9-10 - §102(e) Vappula

Claims 1, 6-7 and 9-10 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication US 2003/0189158 A1 to Vappula. It was asserted that Vappula teaches linkage members that pivotally link side forms as claimed. Of course, the amendments made clearly distinguish over the Vappula reference, but even before the amendments, there is nothing in Vappula that teaches or suggests that there is a pivotal linkage that keeps the side forms vertical at all times. The reference is silent as to that. There is certainly nothing in the Vappula reference that teaches or suggests a pivotal linkage that keeps the side forms vertical at all times, allows up and down movement and which up and down movement causes the side forms to move back and forth with respect to the casting bed.

Claims 3-5, 11-12 - §102(a) Wilson v/ Cashion

Claims 3-5 and 11-12 were rejected as being obvious over the combination of Wilson, U.S. Patent 5,393,033 (Wilson '033) in view of Cashion, U.S. Patent 4,289,293 (Cashion '293). As noted above, Wilson fails to teach or suggest a pivotal linkage with a side form in which the side forms are kept vertical at all times, move up and down and also are driven backward and forward and not laterally. Wilson fails to teach any linkage that does anything other than a simple up and down movement. Cashion teaches nothing that would cause one of ordinary skill in the art to consider a pivotal linkage that would move the side forms backward and forward to impart the vertical travel. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 8 - §103(a) Wilson v/ Bryja et al

Claim 8 was rejected as being obvious over the combination of Wilson, U.S.

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Patent 5,393,033 (Wilson '033) in view of Bryja et al., U.S. Patent 6,793,476 (Bryja '476). As previously discussed, claim 1 as amended is patentable since Wilson neither teaches nor suggests the inventive pivoting linkage to the side forms as claimed. The Bryja '476 reference does not add anything to Wilson which would make the claimed linkage obvious. Therefore, any teaching it may have as to air bladders does not alter the conclusion that the claim is patentable over the cited combination.

Conclusion

Claims 1-12, as amended, are patentable over any of the references cited or in combination.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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